

than 2,000 teachers this year, through a city's alternative certification program.

They saw a problem, and instead of being hidebound by the old way of doing things, they said, "Let's solve the problem first." Let's make sure we solve the problem. You can't—if—children will be left behind, unless there's teachers in the classrooms.

And Joyce, I want to thank you and thank your folks there in New York City for showing America what is possible; that it's possible to be creative and to use your imagination and to solve a teacher shortage that might exist. It is essential that Americans understand, from the examples we've seen here, that change is positive, change is incredibly important to achieve the goal which we all want, and that is to have the best public school systems in the world and make sure no child is left behind. There's no doubt in my mind that these goals are achievable, because we're America, and there's nothing we can't overcome.

The first step is to overcome timidity, and the first step is to overcome an unwillingness to confront mediocrity. And I think school districts and leaders around the country, when they realize what is possible from examples here, will be more than willing to challenge the status quo if the status quo is failing, to insist every child can learn, to raise the bar, and by raising the bar, raise the hopes of everybody who's lucky enough to be called an American.

So I want to thank you all for your leadership. I appreciate very much your commitment to your States, to the children in your States, and to the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Suellen K. Reed, Indiana superintendent of public instruction; Jim Horne, Florida secretary of education; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Patricia A. Harvey, superintendent, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul, MN; Katherine Mitchell, director, Alabama Reading Initiative; and Joyce Coppin, chief executive of the division of human resources, New York City Department of Education.

Proclamation 7590—Patriot Day, 2002

September 4, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On this first observance of Patriot Day, we remember and honor those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. We will not forget the events of that terrible morning nor will we forget how Americans responded in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in the skies over Pennsylvania—with heroism and selflessness; with compassion and courage; and with prayer and hope. We will always remember our collective obligation to ensure that justice is done, that freedom prevails, and that the principles upon which our Nation was founded endure.

Inspired by the heroic sacrifices of our firefighters, rescue and law enforcement personnel, military service members, and other citizens, our Nation found unity, focus, and strength. We found healing in the national outpouring of compassion for those lost, as tens of millions of Americans participated in moments of silence, candlelight vigils, and religious services. From the tragedy of September 11 emerged a stronger Nation, renewed by a spirit of national pride and a true love of country.

We are a people dedicated to the triumph of freedom and democracy over evil and tyranny. The heroic stories of the first responders who gave their all to save others strengthened our resolve. And our Armed Forces have pursued the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and elsewhere with valor and skill. Together with our coalition partners, they have achieved success.

Americans also have fought back against terror by choosing to overcome evil with good. By loving their neighbors as they would like to be loved, countless citizens have answered the call to help others. They have contributed to relief efforts, improved homeland security in their communities, and volunteered their time to aid those in need. This spirit of service continues to grow as thousands have joined the newly established USA Freedom Corps, committing themselves to

changing America one heart at a time through the momentum of millions of acts of decency and kindness.

Those whom we lost last September 11 will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our Nation. As we mark the first anniversary of that tragic day, we remember their sacrifice; and we commit ourselves to honoring their memory by pursuing peace and justice in the world and security at home. By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107–89), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2002, as Patriot Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services and candlelight vigils. I also call upon the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day. Further, I encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes on that day and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time, or another appropriate commemorative time, to honor the innocent victims who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 6, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 9.

Message to the Congress Reporting a Certification Required by the Ratification Resolution of the Chemical Weapons Convention

September 4, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify pursuant to Condition 7(C)(i), Effectiveness of the Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain equally effective or more comprehensive controls over the export of: toxic chemicals and their precursors; dual-use processing equipment; human, animal, and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons applications; and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

The factors underlying this certification are described in the enclosed statement of justification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 4, 2002.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.